

REMARKS

Claims 49-51 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-30, 48 and 52 are canceled. Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 49-51.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not add any additional claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

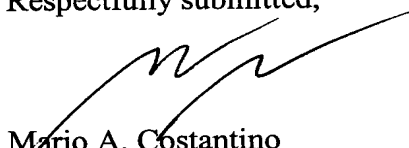
An Election of Species was required in this application. Accordingly, Applicant elected Species II, Figs. 8-18. Applicant asserts that claims 49-51 read on elected Figs. 8-18.

The rejections of claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Hata, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0061801, claims 4, 5, 14, 15, 19-21, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kijima et al. (Kijima), U.S. Patent No. 6,661,451, in view of Norita et al. (Norita), U.S. Publication No. 2004/0169767, claims 4 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hieda et al. (Hieda), U.S. Patent No. 6,353,488, in view of Norita, claims 4-14, 17, 18 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki et al. (Suzuki), U.S. Patent No. 5,751,354, in view of Norita, claims 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kijima in view of Norita and JP11-344662 (JP'662), and claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kijima in view of Norita, JP'622 and JP 09-184973 (JP'973), have been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

MAC:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 22, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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